

Message Text

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SUBJECT: KIEV PROPERTIES

REF: MOSCOW 12724

1. SUMMARY - IN TWO MEETINGS WITH LAVRUKHIN AUGUST 11, ADMIN COUNSELOR OUTLINED US POSITION ON TERRITORY AT STRELETSKAYA AND EXPLAINED PREFERENCE FOR FIRST AND SECOND FLOORS AT GORKIY. LAVRUKHIN DID NOT BUDGE AN INCH FROM PREVIOUS SOVIET POSITION ON STRELETSKAYA AND FOUND NEW ARGUMENTS AGAINST GORKIY REQUEST. ADMIN COUNSELOR EXPRESSED REGRET TWO SIDES UNABLE TO AGREE AND INDICATED HE AND EMBASSY WOULD RECOMMEND POSTPONEMENT OF KNOOP VISIT AND BREAKING OFF PORTER VISITS TO KIEV. DURING VISIT IN KIEV, US REPS ALSO VISITED FLORENTSIYA WORK SITE AND MOSCOW HOTEL. END SUMMARY.

2. STRELETSKAYA - ADMIN COUNSELOR, PORTER AND BYRNES MET MORNING OF AUGUST 11, AND AT TRACY'S SUGGESTION, AGAIN IN AFTERNOON, WITH KIEV FIRST DEPUTY MAYOR N. V. LAVRUKHIN AND OTHER SOVIETS PARTICIPATING IN PROPERTIES NEGOTIATIONS. IN CAREFUL EXPLANATION OF US NEEDS AT STRELETSKAYA, TRACY EMPHASIZED REQUIREMENT FOR WHOLE AREA OF BUILDING TO BE RAZED ADJACENT TO STRELETSKAYA 16 TO ALLOW ACCESS, AND EFFICIENT UNLOADING MANEUVERING OF HEAVY TRUCKS. HE PROPOSED TO RECOMMEND ACCEPTANCE TO THE DEPARTMENT OF OTHER SOVIET PROPOSED BOUNDARIES, IF SOVIETS WOULD MEET OUR NEEDS ON S-16 SIDE. LAVRUKHIN CITED IN FIRM NEGATIVE RESPONSE ("WE HAVE ALREADY GIVEN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OUR ANSWER".) COUNTERVAILING NEEDS OF NEARBY

HOSPITAL AND LOCAL RESIDENTS. HE POINTEDLY CHALLENGED ADMIN COUNSELOR'S EXPLANATION OF TRUCK ACCESS NEEDS, CITING INTERIOR MINISTRY EXPERTS' OPINION US ALREADY HAD ENOUGH ROOM FOR TRUCKS AND THEN MAINTAINED US INTERNATIONAL SHIPMENTS TO CONSULATE WOULD BE UNLOADED AT KIEV CUSTOMS POINT ANYWAY AND COULD THEN BE DELIVERED IN SMALLER TRUCKS.

3. GORKIY - LAVRUKHIN WAS EQUALLY INFLEXIBLE ON FIRST AND SECOND FLOORS FRONT ENTRY REQUEST AT GORKIY. ALTHOUGH CITING US EARLIER AGREEMENT ON SECOND AND THIRD FLOORS, HE PUT MORE EMPHASIS ON NEW ARGUMENTS. HE CLAIMED PERSONAL EFFORTS TO GAIN APPROVAL OF "TENANTS" FOR US USE OF SECOND AND THIRD FLOORS AND SAID HE AND CITY COUNCIL WOULD SUFFER "PAINFUL LOSS OF PRESTIGE" IF THIS HAD TO BE UNDERTAKEN AGAIN. HE COULD NOT DO IT.

4. IN SECOND MEETING, ARGUING AGAINST USE OF FIRST FLOOR AT GORKIY, AND PRESUMABLY FRONT ENTRANCE, LAVRUKHIN RAISED QUESTION OF SECURITY. NOTING HE HAD CONSULTED AUTHORITIES ONLY THAT DAY, LAVRUKHIN ARGUED THAT IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO PROTECT RESIDENCE FROM PROVOCATIONS BY LOCAL HOOLIGAN ELEMENTS AND/OR FOREIGN STUDENTS FROM DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, THOUGH AT SAME TIME ASSERTING LOCAL CRIME WAS NOWHERE NEAR THE PROBLEM IT IS IN US.

5. IN MORE-IN-SORROW-THAN-IN-ANGER PRESENTATION AT CLOSE OF SECOND MEETING, TRACY EMPHASIZED CLOSENESS OF TWO SIDES ON STRELETSKAYA AND GORKIY PROPERTIES, US EFFORTS TO BRING ABOUT COMPROMISE THROUGHOUT NEGOTIATIONS AND EXPRESSED REGRET SIDES HAD NOT BEEN ABLE TO COME TO AGREEMENT. ADMIN COUNSELOR THEN STATED THAT HE WOULD HAVE TO RECOMMEND POSTPONING KNOOP'S TRIP TO KIEV AND SAW NO REASON FOR PORTER TO CONTINUE TO VISIT IF SOVIETS UNWILLING TO NEGOTIATE. THESE POINTS WERE REITERATED SEVERAL TIMES TO THE SOVIETS.

6. FLORENTSIYA/MOSKVA - US REPS VISITED FLORENTSIYA APARTMENTS AUGUST 12 TO FIND WORK UNDERWAY THERE. A BRIEF VISIT WAS ALSO MADE AT MOSKVA HOTEL.

7. COMMENT - SOVIETS MAY HAVE EXPECTED US SIDE TO CAVE ON BOTH ISSUES AT SECOND MEETING. AT ITS END, THERE WERE REPEATED SOVIET EXPRESSIONS OF EXPECTATION OF SEEING KNOOP SOON AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PORTER NEXT WEEK, POSSIBLY SIGNS OF ANXIETY AS US POSITION SUNK IN. HOWEVER, WE DO NOT EXPECT ANY QUICK SOFTENING OF SOVIET POSITIONS.

8. EMBASSY ANALYSIS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOLLOWS IN SEPTEL. STOESSEL

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